

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly comprising:

a messenger section, the messenger section comprising at least one strength component and a jacket surrounding the at least one strength component;

a carrier section, the carrier section comprising a jacket and a tube, at least one optical waveguide disposed within the tube, ~~the optical waveguide being at least partially disposed along a path and having an excess fiber length (EFL) greater than about 0.0% to about 3.2%~~;

a web connecting the respective jackets of the messenger and carrier sections; and

at least one plug connector, the at least one plug connector being attached to a first end of the figure-eight cable, thereby connectorizing a first end of the optical waveguide, wherein the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing and a connector assembly, the crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a portion of the connector assembly therebetween where the connector assembly includes a ferrule and a connector housing.

2. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the two-half shells having a curvilinear longitudinal passageway therethrough for routing the at least one optical waveguide to the connector assembly, and the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band

3. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the crimp housing being a portion of a crimp assembly that includes a crimp band for holding the crimp housing together ~~and the connector assembly including a ferrule and a connector housing.~~

4. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 3, the two half-shells having a curvilinear longitudinal passageway therethrough and at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable therein, and the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band.

5. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, one of the two half-shells having at least one rib.

6. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud and the crimp housing is at least partially disposed within the shroud, the shroud having two fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein the two fingers are disposed about 180 degrees apart and have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

7. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed over a portion of the at least one plug connector and a portion of one of the jackets.

8. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, and a coupling nut.

9. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 8, the shroud defining a pair of

openings on opposite sides of the first end, the opening extending lengthwise from a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the shroud, wherein the ferrule is accessible within the first end of the shroud.

10. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 8, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed about the second end of the shroud and a portion of one of the jackets.

11. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 8, further comprising an O-ring disposed on the shroud for weatherproofing the at least one plug connector.

12. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, wherein the shroud has at least one alignment indicia for indicating a mating orientation.

13. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, the shroud has a plurality of fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein at least two of the fingers have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

14. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the at least one plug connector having a protective cap and a retention wire, wherein the

protective cap is attached to the at least one plug connector by a retention wire.

15. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, a plurality of the components of the at least one plug connector being formed from a UV stabilized material.

16. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, the cable having two or more plug connectors.

17. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 1, a dry insert being disposed within the tube.

18. (currently amended) A preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly, comprising:

a messenger section, the messenger section comprising at least one strength component and a jacket surrounding the at least one strength component;

a carrier section, the carrier section including at least one optical waveguide and a jacket;

a web connecting the respective jackets of the messenger section and carrier section; and

at least one plug connector, the at least one plug connector being attached to a first end of the figure-eight cable, thereby connectorizing a first end of the optical waveguide, wherein the at least one plug connector comprises a crimp assembly, the crimp assembly includes a crimp housing that secures a connector assembly, the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a curvilinear longitudinal passageway therethrough for routing the at least one optical waveguide

therethrough to the connector assembly, and the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band.

19. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud and the crimp housing is at least partially disposed within the shroud, the shroud having two fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein the two fingers are disposed about 180 degrees apart and have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

20. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, one of the half-shells having at least one rib.

21. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the two half-shells further comprising:

at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable therein;

a connector assembly clamping portion, the connector assembly clamping portion securing a portion of the connector assembly; and

a crimp band, the crimp band holding together the two half-shells.

22. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed over a portion of the at least one plug connector and a portion of one of the jackets.

23. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, and a coupling nut.

24. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 23, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides of the first end, the opening extending lengthwise from a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the shroud, wherein the ferrule is accessible within the first end of the shroud.

25. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 23, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed about the second end of the shroud and a portion of one of the jackets.

26. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 23, further comprising an O-ring disposed on the shroud for weatherproofing the at least one plug connector.

27. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, wherein the shroud has at least one alignment indicia for indicating a mating orientation.

28. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end,

the shroud has a plurality of fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein at least two of the fingers have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

29. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the at least one plug connector having a protective cap and a retention wire, wherein the protective cap is attached to the at least one plug connector by a retention wire.

30. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, a plurality of the components of the at least one plug connector being formed from a UV stabilized material.

31. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the cable having two or more plug connectors.

32. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 18, the carrier section having a dry insert.

33. (currently amended) A preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly, comprising:

a messenger section, said messenger section comprising at least one strength component and a jacket of the messenger section surrounding the at least one strength component;

a carrier section being a tubeless configuration that excludes a strength component, the carrier section including at least one optical fiber and at least one water-swellable element disposed within a passageway of a jacket of the carrier section;

a web connecting said respective jackets of the messenger section and the carrier section; and

at least one plug connector, the at least one plug connector being attached to a first end of the cable, thereby connectorizing a first end of the optical waveguide, wherein the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing and a connector assembly, the crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a portion of the connector assembly therebetween where the connector assembly includes a ferrule and a connector housing.

34. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the two half-shells having a curvilinear longitudinal passageway therethrough for routing the at least one optical waveguide to the connector assembly, and the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band.

35. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the crimp housing being a portion of a crimp assembly that includes a crimp band for holding the crimp housing together ~~and the connector assembly including a ferrule and a connector housing.~~

36. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 34, the crimp housing having at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable therein.

37. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 34, one of the half-shells having at least one rib for securing the at least one strength component.

38. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 34, the two half-shells further comprising:

at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable therein; and

a connector assembly clamping portion, the connector assembly clamping portion securing a portion of the connector assembly therein.

39. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed over a portion of the at least one plug connector and a portion of one of the jackets.

40. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, and a coupling nut.

41. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 40, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides of the first end, the opening extending lengthwise from a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the shroud, wherein the ferrule is accessible within the first end of the shroud.

42. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 40, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed about the second end of the shroud and a portion of one of the jackets.

43. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 40, further comprising an O-ring disposed on the shroud for weatherproofing the at least one plug connector.

44. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, wherein the shroud has at least one alignment indicia for indicating a mating orientation.

45. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, the shroud has a plurality of fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein at least two of the fingers have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

46. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the at least one plug connector having a protective cap and a retention wire, wherein the protective cap is attached to the at least one plug connector by a retention wire.

47. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, a plurality of the components of the at least one plug connector being formed from a UV stabilized material.

48. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the cable having two or more

plug connectors.

49. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the water-swellable element being a portion of a dry insert.

50. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor figure-eight cable assembly of claim 33, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud and the crimp housing is at least partially disposed within the shroud, the shroud having two fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein the two fingers are disposed about 180 degrees apart and have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.